High Court benches in Gujarat

998. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had established High Court benches in some States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress in cases of Gujarat to establish High Court benches in Saurashtra, Kutch and South Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The details of the High Court Benches established by the Government, their principal seats and the date from which these Benches began functioning are enclosed as Statement (*See* below).

(c) The then Chief Minister of Gujarat had in September, 2000 conveyed that the State Government felt that Circuit Benches of the Gujarat High Court be established at Surat and Rajkot. The matter was examined in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court who informed that it would not be in the interest of the Institution to have a Circuit Bench either at Surat or at Rajkot. The Chief Minister of Gujarat was informed accordingly in May, 2001. Thereafter, no proposal has been received from the Government of Gujarat, in consultation with the Chief Justice for the establishement of Benches of the Gujarat High Court either at Surat or at Rajkot.

Statement

Name of High Courts, their principal seats, benches and their jurisdiction

Sl. No.	High Court	Principal Seat	Jurisdiction	Bench and Date from which the bench began functioning
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow (19.07.1948)
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	–
3.	Bombay	Mumbai	Maharashtra;	Nagpur (01.05.1960)
			Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli; Goa	Aurangabad (27.08.1984) Panaji (30.10.1982)
4.	Calcutta	Kolkata	West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar Islands	–
5.	Chhattisgarh	Bilaspur	Chhattisgarh	–
6.	Delhi	Delhi	N.C.T. of Delhi	–
7.	Gauhati	Guwahati	Assam	
			Nagaland	Kohima (10.02.1990)
			Mizoram	Aizawl (05.07.1990)
			Manipur	Imphal (21.01.1992)
			Tripura	Agartala (16.05.1992)

1	2	3	4	5
			Meghalaya Arunachal Pradesh	Shillong (04.02.1998) Itanagar (12.08.2000)
8.	Gujarat	Sola (Ahmedabad)	Gujarat	–
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh	–
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu and Srinagar	Jammu & Kashmir	–
11.	Jharkhand	Ranchi	Jharkhand	–
12.	Karnataka	Bangalore	Karnataka	–
13.	Kerala	Kochi	Kerala and Lakshadweep Islands	–
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh	Gwalior (01-11-1956) Indore (01.11.1956)
15.	Madras	Chennai	Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry	Madurai (24.07.2004)
16.	Orissa	Cuttack	Orissa	–
17.	Patna	Patna	Bihar	–
18.	Punjab and Haryana	Chandigarh	Punjab, Haryana U.T. of Chandigarh	–
19.	Rajasthan	Jodhpur	Rajasthan	Jaipur (31.01.1977)
20.	Sikkim	Gangtok	Sikkim	–
21.	Uttarakhand	Nainital	Uttarakhand	–

* There are 21 High Courts in the country.

* Only 6 High Courts (Allahabad, Bombay, Gauhati, Madhya Pradesh, Madras and Rajasthan) have 14 permanent benches amongst themselves.

Public Interest Litigations

999. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases registered on the basis of Public Insterest Litigations (PILs) during the last three years;

(b) how many of them involved allegations against former Union Ministers and in how many of these cases litigations were found groundless or lacking substance and basis; and

(c) whether in view of the misuse and abuse of the mode of PILs, the Apex Court has issued guidelines and parameters concerning acceptability of PILs and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) Information is being collected from the Supreme Court and the High Courts and the same would be laid on the Table of the House.